

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10

RSC-01 OIC-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DRC-01 /121 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2270

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5703

PASS COMMERCE AND LABOR.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ORG, ILO

SUBJECT: ILO - VIEWS OF DDG AMMAR RE ELECTION NEW DG

1. LABATT CALLED ON DDG ABBAS AMMAR AFTERNOON OCTOBER 26
TO SEEK CLARIFICATION HIS VIEWS RE OPTIONS WHICH WILL BE
DISCUSSED BY NOVEMBER GB CONCERNING SELECTION OF NEW DG.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT AMMAR HAS FIXED VIEWS OF "PRINCIPLE"
ABOUT CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HE WOULD ACCEPT WHAT HE CALLED
"LAME DUCK" APPOINTMENT AS ACTING DG, IF GB DECIDED NOT TO
ELECT PERMANENT DG IN NOVEMBER. WITHOUTH SPECIFYING THOSE
CONDITIONS HE REFERRED TO A "PACKAGE DEAL" WHICH WOULD TAKE
ACCOUNT OF (A) LENGTH OF TERM, (B) DEGREE OF AUTHORITY, (C) EXTENT
OF SUPPORT AND (D) DESIGNATED TITLE. HE SPOKE OF PROBLEMS THAT
WOULD FACE INTERIM DG IF TERM WAS TOO SHORT, AUTHORITY TOO
RESTRICTED, SUPPORT DIVIDED, AND TITLE OBSCURE. HE BELIEVES
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THAT MONTHS AHEAD WILL BE DIFFICULT ONES FOR A DG AND MENTIONED

AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER, EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN JAN., PREPARATION OF LONG-TERM PLAN FOR FEB/MAR. GB, AND COMPLETION PREPARATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE BY APRIL.

3. AMMAR CLAIMS THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO INITIATE BARGAINING OVER CONDITIONS WITH GB AND IS THEREFORE NOT PREPARED TO STATE PRECISELY KIND OF PACKAGE DEAL THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT. RATHER HE INTENDS TO AWAIT JUDGEMENT OF NOVEMBER GB TO SEE WHAT IS PROPOSED. HIS STATED FEAR IS THAT ACCEPTANCE "WRONG" CONDITIONS COULD QUICKLY DESTROY PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION OF INTERIM DG.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT AMMAR, AT AGE 66 IS INTERESTED IN A FULL DG TERM ALTHOUGH HE MAY HARBOR AMBITIONS TO SERVE IN ACTING CAPACITY FOR REMAINDER OF JENKS TERM WHICH WOULD HAVE RUN UNTIL MAY 1975. IN ANY CASE, AMMAR DOES NOT WANT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED AS POTENTIAL INTERIM DG JUST BECAUSE HE IS THERE. HE PROBABLY COULD BE PERSUADED BY (A) APPEALING TO HIS YEARS OF LOYAL AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE ILO, AND (B) AN UNANIMOUS CALL FROM THE GB, FOR HIM TO UNDERTAKE THE ASSIGNMENT WITH FULL DG AUTHORITY AND FOR A TERM (WHICH MIGHT BE LONGER THAN TO FEB/MAR.) WHICH WOULD AVOID MAKING HIM APPEAR AS MERELY AN INSTRUMENT USED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE GB. IF AMMAR SHOULD REFUSE AN OFFER TO SERVE, POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR GB TO CONSIDER WOULD INCLUDE (A) GIVING INTERIM TERM TO DG BLANCHARD, (B) VESTING INTERIM AUTHORITY IN THREE GB OFFICERS TO ADMINISTER ORGANIZATION, (C) ARRANGING FOR MEMBERS OF DIRECTORATE TO COLLECTIVELY ADMINISTER ORGANIZATION FOR INTERIM PERIOD. WHILE THESE, AND POSSIBLY OTHER, ALTERNATIVES MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED, PERSUADING AMMAR TO ACCEPT A REASONABLE LENGTH INTERIM TERM STILL APPEARS TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE SOLUTION. BASSIN

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